

THE WINCHESTER NEWS.

An Independent Newspaper.

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New Phone No. 91.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1908.

THE TELEPHONE FRANCHISE.

The City Council at its meeting last Friday night passed an ordinance offering for sale a telephone franchise. This ordinance was prepared and presented by the attorney for the East Tennessee Telephone Company. This company has been operating for some years under a license as we understand it, from the Council; but this license has expired and if the company continues in business in this city, it must buy a franchise.

A special meeting of the Council has been called for tonight by the Mayor to again consider that ordinance.

The telephone is a natural monopoly and in our private opinion there should be but one company in any given field. The government should conduct it, as in many European countries, or a single company acting under an iron-clad franchise that gives to the governing body of the State or municipality power to control and regulate the character of its service and the rates to be charged.

Two companies as in Winchester, are a double tax on the local business man. He is compelled to install both in his store for fear that he may lose customers, who do business over the telephone. If there were but one company in the field in Winchester now we should probably be opposed to granting an additional franchise. But we are not yet sufficiently acquainted with the local situation to know what is best for the city. The Old Kentucky Company has, we are reliably informed, about four times the number of subscribers of the East Tennessee Company. It seems to cover the city and county thoroughly and to have long distance connections with Lexington, Mt. Sterling, and other neighboring points.

The East Tennessee has comparatively a small local business, but can give the merchants connections with Cincinnati, Chicago, New York and other points not covered by the other company. Many of our business houses find such service absolutely essential to the successful conducting of their affairs.

We have been told that the East Tennessee is making no money. We have also been informed that there were negotiations on foot several months ago for this company to withdraw from the local field under an agreement with the Old Kentucky to take care of all outside tolls. The Bell people are now doing this in several points in the State where they were unable to secure a foothold against the independent company or found it unprofitable.

The Old Kentucky Company is now operating under a franchise which permits it to charge a rate of \$1.50 a month to residences and \$2.50 a month to business houses. A further provision of that franchise is that when the company has 1500 subscribers, it may increase the rates for residences to \$2.00 and for business houses to \$3.00 a month. At present, the company is actually charging \$1.00 for residences and \$2.00 to business men. But it is stated that this rate will not prevail after the first of the year; that on that date the amount fixed in the franchise will be collected. The com-

pany has in the neighborhood of a 1000 subscribers and therefore the charge next year will be \$1.50 for residences and \$2.50 for business houses. One of the peculiar things about the telephone business is that as the subscribers grow the expenses increase more rapidly and a higher rate must be charged.

The franchise asked by the East Tennessee Company and which was passed by the Council last Friday fixes the maximum rate at \$1.65 for residences and \$2.75 for business houses. And when 1000 telephones have been installed the rates may be raised to \$2.00 for residences and \$3.00 for business places. The attorney for the company at the Council meeting stated that these rates were necessary to make the business profitable.

We do not understand why there should be this difference in the provisions of the two franchises. The manager of the Old Kentucky Company states to us that his company is perfectly satisfied with the maximum rates fixed by his franchise and that the owners of that company can make a fair profit under those rates. That they feel that the community should not be asked for higher rates and that they are perfectly satisfied. If this be so, the rate provisions of the ordinance that is to be considered again tonight, are too high. The Old Kentucky is owned and controlled by local men. It is a home enterprise. The East Tennessee is a foreign corporation and is a part of the great Bell system.

We should be absolutely fair to both companies. The ordinance Friday night was passed without consideration or discussion in the Council and on the statement of the attorney for the East Tennessee Company. The Council is acting for the citizens of Winchester. It represents them and them alone. In a matter so important which fixes on the community a charge that must be borne for twenty years, it behooves the Council to go slow. The fullest consideration should be given and the fullest investigation made.

What are the rates in other cities of the same size as Winchester. What do experts say as to the cost of telephone service. Why should the Old Kentucky Company with 1,000 subscribers be satisfied with a lower rate than the East Tennessee with 250. And particularly why is this so, when the officials of both companies say that it costs far more to handle each subscriber when there are a larger number than when there are comparatively few. Why should the Old Kentucky be forbidden to raise its rates until it has 1500 names while the East Tennessee under the provisions of the new ordinance can do so when 1000 is reached.

These are questions that should be investigated and answered by the Council. The News holds a brief for neither company. It is trying to represent to the best of its ability, the interests of the citizens of Winchester. The Council is proposing to sell a valuable privilege. It is fixing for 20 years the prices that must be paid by our citizens. It should set these rates at a figure that will allow the company to secure a fair interest on its investment and no more. The telephone company is a public service corporation. It does business in this community by virtue of a privilege given by the municipality. If \$1.65 for residences and \$2.75 for stores is a fair maximum rate, let the Council so fix it. If it is too high, let the proper figures be inserted before this privilege is auctioned off.

Remember Mr. Councilman, you represent the city of Winchester and neither telephone company. You are to find out what is best for the city and its citizens and act accordingly.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

The late Frank Marshall's famous editorial in Charles Dana's New York Sun answering the query, "Is there a Santa Claus?" is particularly appropriate now. It is as follows:

"We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

Dear Editor—I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

VIRGINIA O'HANLON,
115 West Fifty-ninth street.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as meas-

ured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith in this weary world, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not; but that's no truth that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supreme beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

DEvised BY A BUSY FATHER

Electrical Apparatus That Saves Time and Makes for Comfort in the Nursery.

An engineer in Chicago has had some lively experiences in home life. He married a lady graduate in medicine, and later he found that when his wife was on her rounds the care of the baby devolved upon him. Finding this work interfering with his own professional labors, the engineer produced an apparatus for rocking the cradle by electricity. He had another switch connected with a phonograph, which as soon as the cradle was set in motion played some lullaby, a favorite of the little one, and so sent him to sleep. The engineer has also constructed an electric apparatus which gives the little recipient its milk at intervals.

INGENIOUS DEVICE.

When the members of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers paid a visit of inspection to northern Italy lately they were interested in a device used to protect the overhead transmission lines of an electric traction system from lightning discharges. The device consists of jets of water, which form a permanent "earth" at the Monbegno generating station on the Valtellina line. The electric resistance of the jets was said to be sufficient to prevent a serious loss of current, while not too great to enable them to serve for protection against lightning.

MARKED FOR DEATH.

"Three years ago I was marked for death. A grave-yard cough was tearing my lungs to pieces. Doctors failed to help me, and hope had fled, when my husband got Dr. King's New Discovery," says Mrs. A. C. Williams, of Bae, Kv. "The first dose helped me and improvement kept on until I had gained 58 pounds in weight and my health was fully restored." This medicine holds the world's healing record for coughs and colds and lung and throat diseases. It prevents pneumonia. Sold under guarantee at Phillips Drug store. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

A Relationship Puzzle.

Oxford (Eng.) provides the latest relationship puzzle. The father of a child recently born in the town married, for a second time, the sister of his daughter's husband. The younger is, therefore, uncle to his cousins and to himself, brother-in-law to his mother, and cousin to his father's grandchildren.

MOVING PICTURES.

Three thousand feet of moving pictures at opera house Saturday night. Something good. Don't fail to see it. 12-10-3t.

Balloon Skate

at the

AUDITORIUM

Saturday Afternoon, Dec. 12

Every ticket purchased entitles you to a balloon.

Admission and Skates 10c

At Night.

\$30 in Gold will be given out Come and get some of it. The conditions will be explained at the rink.

Admission 10c, Skates 15c

Capital, \$100,000
Undivided Profits, \$160,000

THE Winchester Bank

OF WINCHESTER, KY.

N. H. WITHERSPOON,
PRESIDENT.

W. R. SPHAR,
CASHIER.

SOLICITS YOUR ACCOUNTS.

KIDSVILLE.

Mrs. Mattie Jones is ill at this writing.

Mrs. Joe Garriet of Green Castle, Indiana, is visiting her father, Mr. Tom Rayborn.

Miss Sallie Lee Lancaster of Lexington, is the pleasant guest of Miss Zelta Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Chaney, of Winchester visited Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Rupard Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Butler entertained a number of their friends with grappophone music last Thursday night.

The home of James Niblick caught fire Thursday morning, but with the help of kind neighbors, the fire was extinguished and little damage was done.

Mrs. W. H. Rash and children visited Mrs. W. T. Bunch Sunday.

Miss Ollie Sewell is visiting Miss Laura Pace.

Miss Mary Dutton and Mr. Lindsey Douglass were the guests of Emma West and brother, Shirley, Tuesday night.

Mr. Cecil Daniel visited his grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Boone, Sunday.

Mrs. Cliff Daniel and daughter, Mrs. Oscar Porman visited Mrs. Joe Hisle at "Holly Wood" Sunday.

Miss Stella Bush is the charming guest of Miss Alma Pharis.

Miss Laura Pace, Miss Ollie Sewell, Mr. Thaborn Pace, Miss Nellie Rash and Mr. Willie Johnson were the pleasant guests of Miss Alma Pharis, Sunday.

FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE.

We are authorized to announce
JAMES M. BENTON

as a candidate for Circuit Judge for the Twenty-fifth Judicial District, composed of Clark, Powell, Jessamine and Madison counties, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

We are authorized to announce
J. SMITH HAYS

as a candidate for Circuit Judge for the Twenty-fifth Judicial District, composed of Clark, Powell, Jessamine and Madison counties, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

Merit in merchandise handled by us has done a great deal for this house during the two years of its existence.



We have been careful to keep the standard up to the highest possible notch and we know we have succeeded because our business has grown steadily every month since its existence.

Our Suits and Overcoats at \$20.00 are the best values we can find. If there were any better we would have them.

Our Haberdashery is the kind that particular dressers appreciate. The prices are no higher than are asked for ordinary goods.

Our Hats correspond to other lines carried. Splendid styles, latest colors and good values in every way.

Johnson & Murphy's
Fine Shoes
for gentlemen have no equal.

Rupard-Stewart Co.

The Evening Slippers

ARE HERE.

They are very Stylish and Pretty.

Patent Leather Ankle Straps are very popular.

Black and Tan Suede Opera and Colonial Ties.

Black Kid with Fancy Beads made in the latest styles.

IF YOU WANT THE NEW FOOTWEAR, CALL ON US.

McCord, Smith & Phillips.

Do Men Read Advertisements?

Read This One at Any Rate.

THIS COUPON
Cut out and presented to us is good for
50c on a Cash Purchase
Men's \$5.00 Shoes.
Good Until Dec. 1, '08. MASSIE, The Shoe Man.

We Do Not Reserve Any \$5 Shoe in our Store.

MASSIE, The Shoe Man.



We Are Being Buried

with hurry orders for feed because our customers know that we are selling none but the best grades, at about the lowest prices asked in today's market. It pays, under these conditions, to lay in a good stock for the rest of the winter. Shrewd buyers will come forward now and do their selecting before prices rise again. Try a sack of "Purina" Horse and Mule Feed.

The WINN-MARTIN COAL & SUPPLY CO.
INCORPORATED.

Love & Reeves Orchestra

Piano, Trap and Drum Music.

We are ready to furnish Music for any occasion that may come up.

LOVE & REEVES.

10 N. Maple St., Home Phone 635.

Do your Christmas shopping early and in the morning and aid the merchant and his clerks.

D. B. HAMPTON, Pres. B. F. CURTIS, Cashier

Clark County National Bank.

MAIN STREET.

Winchester, - - Kentucky

Capital, \$200,000
Surplus, \$100,000.
Undivided Profits, \$35,000

Organized 1866, being the oldest Bank in the city.
Collections made on all points, and your accounts solicited